

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Catherine PACHUK *et al.* Confirmation No.: 3823

Application No.: 10/560,377 Group Art Unit: 1648

Filed: June 19, 2006 Examiner: Peng, Bo

For: Conserved HBV and HCV Sequences Useful for Gene Silencing

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Communication mailed February 17, 2009, Applicants respectfully submit that no new sequence listing or amendments are required.

The Examiner erroneously states that unconventional letters for nucleic acids are used in SEQ ID NO: 3 and requests that Applicants comply with CFR 1.821-1.825.

Applicants respectfully submit that according to § 2422 of the MPEP:

37 CFR 1.821 incorporates by reference the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation, Standard ST.25 (1998), including Tables 1 through 6 of Appendix 2. Copies may be obtained from the World Intellectual Property Organization; 34 chemin des Colombettes; 1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland. Copies may be inspected at the Patent Search Room; Crystal Plaza 3, Lobby Level; 2021 South Clark Place; Arlington, VA 22202. Copies may also be inspected at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20408. These tables are reproduced below.

WIPO Standard ST.25 (1998), Appendix 2, Table 1, provides that the bases of a nucleotide sequence should be represented using the following one-letter code for nucleotide sequence characters:

Symbol	Meaning	Origin of designation
a	a	adenine
g	g	guanine
c	c	cytosine
t	t	thymine
u	u	uracil
r	g or a	purine
y	t/u or c	pyrimidine
m	a or c	amino
k	g or t/u	keto
s	g or c	strong interactions 3H-bonds
w	a or t/u	weak interactions 2H-bonds
b	g or c or t/u	not a
d	a or g or t/u	not c
h	a or c or t/u	not g
v	a or g or c	not t, not u
n	a or g or c or t/u, unknown, or other	any

Applicants respectfully submit that, since the symbols used in the sequence listing filed on June 19, 2006 are in full compliance with the table above, the sequence listing is in full compliance with CFR 1.821-1.825. Applicants hereby request that any objections to the sequence listing be withdrawn.

Applicants believe the application is now in condition for examination. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

Dated: *March 17, 2009*

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Respectfully submitted,
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